

無能の人

つげ義春



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第一話

石を 売る

つげ義春

CHAPTER I:
SELLING ROCKS



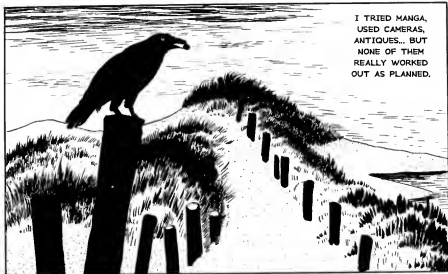


COULDN'T REALLY THINK
OF ANYTHING ELSE.



I STARTED
SELLING ROCKS.

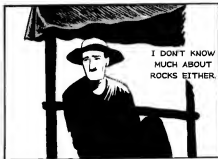




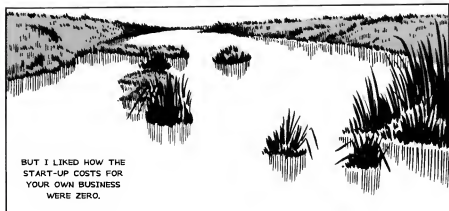
I TRIED MANGA,
USED CAMERAS,
ANTIQUES... BUT
NONE OF THEM
REALLY WORKED
OUT AS PLANNED.



JUST PICKED UP
A FEW THINGS
FROM A ROCK BOOK.



I DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT
ROCKS EITHER.



BUT I LIKED HOW THE
START-UP COSTS FOR
YOUR OWN BUSINESS
WERE ZERO.

TAMAGAWA
RIVER.
MIDSTREAM.





BUT
I HAVEN'T
GIVEN UP.

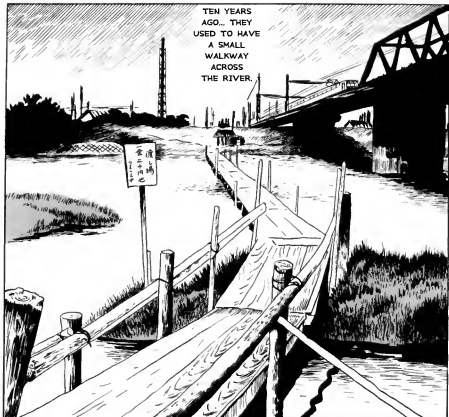


I...



I STILL
HAVE DREAMS.

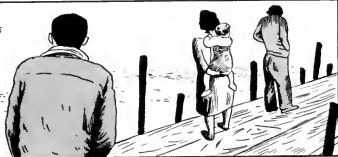
TEN YEARS
AGO... THEY
USED TO HAVE
A SMALL
WALKWAY
ACROSS
THE RIVER.



THERE WAS AN
OLD MAN WHO RAN
EVERYTHING, BUT
HE FINALLY GOT OLD
ENOUGH HE HAD TO RETIRE.



THERE USED TO
BE THIRTY PEOPLE
A DAY THAT
WOULD CROSS
THE RIVER.



ON DAYS THEY
HAD HORSE RACES,
THE NUMBERS
WOULD JUMP
TO 200 PEOPLE
A DAY.



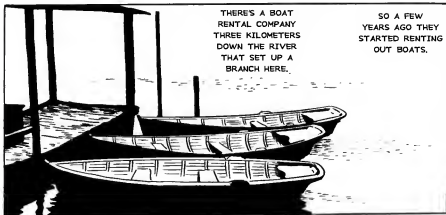
THEY ONLY HAVE
HORSE RACES
SIX TIMES
A MONTH, BUT...



THE PEOPLE ON
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THE RIVER
HAVE BEEN REALLY
INCONVENIENCED
EVER SINCE THE
WALKWAYS BEEN GONE.

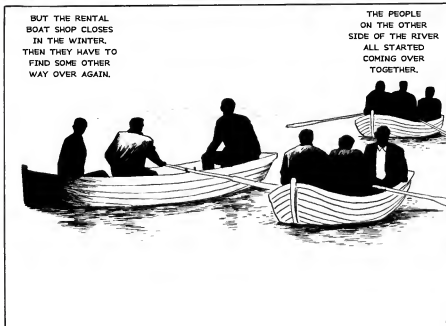


THEY PROBABLY
DON'T WANT
TO HAVE TO
USE THE
TRAIN TO JUST
GO ONE
STATION OVER.



THERE'S A BOAT
RENTAL COMPANY
THREE KILOMETERS
DOWN THE RIVER
THAT SET UP A
BRANCH HERE.

SO A FEW
YEARS AGO THEY
STARTED RENTING
OUT BOATS.

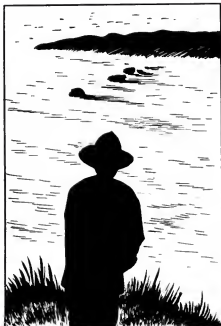


BUT THE RENTAL
BOAT SHOP CLOSES
IN THE WINTER.
THEN THEY HAVE TO
FIND SOME OTHER
WAY OVER AGAIN.

THE PEOPLE
ON THE OTHER
SIDE OF THE RIVER
ALL STARTED
COMING OVER
TOGETHER.

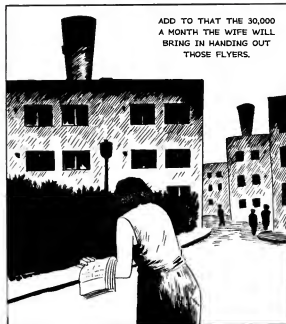


BACK
THEN,
USING
THE
WALKWAY
WAS
20 YEN.



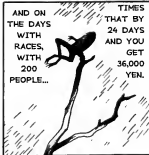
WITH 30 PEOPLE
A DAY, THAT
WOULD BE...
1500 YEN.

BUT I COULD
PROBABLY
CHARGE 50
YEN NOW.



ADD TO THAT THE 30,000
A MONTH THE WIFE WILL
BRING IN HANDING OUT
THOSE FLYERS.

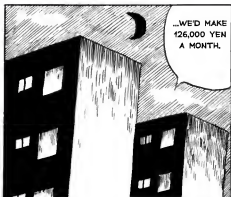
AND ON THE DAYS
WITH RACES,
WITH 200
PEOPLE... TIMES
THAT BY 24 DAYS
AND YOU GET
36,000
YEN.



IN TOTAL
I'D MAKE
96,000
A MONTH.

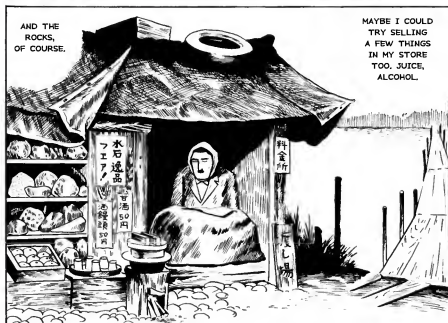
TIMES
THAT
BY SIX
AND IT'D
COME TO
60,000
YEN.







AND I WAS THINKING,
A LOT OF PEOPLE SET UP
SMALL SHOPS AROUND THE
RIVER WHEN THEY HAVE RACES.



AND THE
ROCKS,
OF COURSE.

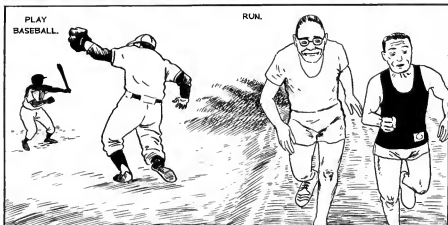
MAYBE I COULD
TRY SELLING
A FEW THINGS
IN MY STORE
TOO. JUICE,
ALCOHOL.

JUICE: 50 YEN. ALCOHOL: 50 YEN.

VIEWING STONE CAMPAIGN GOING ON NOW.

PAY HERE.

WALKWAY SERVICE.





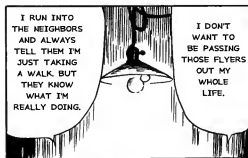
SOMETHING
TELLS ME
I COULD MAKE
A STEADY
INCOME.



WHAT ABOUT WHEN
IT RAINST? WHAT
ABOUT WINTER?
NO ONE GOES
TO THE RIVER
DURING
WINTER.

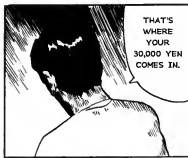


BIRD
WATCHING.



I RUN INTO
THE NEIGHBORS
AND ALWAYS
TELL THEM I'M
JUST TAKING
A WALK. BUT
THEY KNOW
WHAT I'M
REALLY DOING.

I DON'T
WANT TO
BE PASSING
THOSE FLYERS
OUT MY
WHOLE
LIFE.



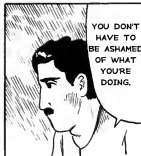
THAT'S
WHERE
YOUR
30,000 YEN
COMES IN.



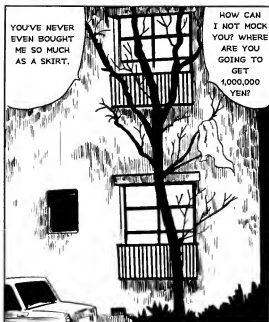
HARDER.



I'VE GOT 3000
APARTMENTS
I HAVE TO
COVER. IT'S
KILLING ME.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO
BE ASHAMED
OF WHAT
YOU'RE
DOING.

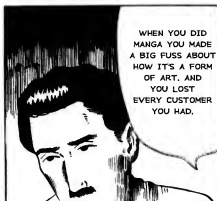




AND IF WE
FILLED
UP THE
BATH
DROP
BY DROP
THE METER
PROBABLY
WOULDN'T
CATCH IT.



WE
COULD
CUT
DOWN
ON
GAS
USAGE.



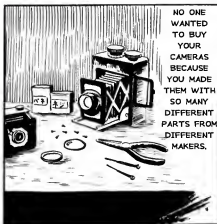
WHEN YOU DID
MANGA YOU MADE
A BIG FUSS ABOUT
HOW IT'S A FORM
OF ART. AND
YOU LOST
EVERY CUSTOMER
YOU HAD.



THOSE
ARE YOUR
IDEAS?



YOU SPENT
SO MUCH TIME
TRYING TO
HAVE THE
ANTIQUES
YOU MADE
LOOK AUTHEN-
TIC THAT
YOU ENDED
UP NEVER
FINISHING
ANYTHING.



NO ONE
WANTED
TO BUY
YOUR
CAMERAS
BECAUSE
YOU MADE
THEM WITH
SO MANY
DIFFERENT
PARTS FROM
DIFFERENT
MAKERS.



YOU WANT
TO SET SOME
ROCKS OUT
FOR PEOPLE
TO BUY RIGHT
NEXT TO
YOUR WALKWAY
BUSINESS.



AND NOW
YOU WANT
TO SELL
ROCKS.



WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
CARRY
PEOPLE
ON YOUR
BACK
ACROSS
THE RIVER.



YOU DO IT.

TAKE CARE
OF HIM.

HIS ASTHMA'S
ACTING UP
AGAIN.

MUGIGAWA
RIVER
PATTERN
DESIGN.
200,000 YEN.



KAMANASHIGAWA
WATERFALL
STONE.
30,000 YEN.

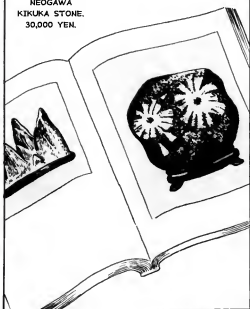


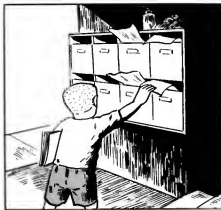
MOJIBAIKA
STONE.
100,000 YEN.



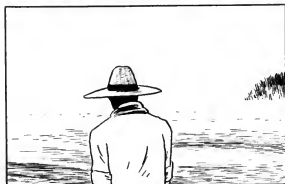


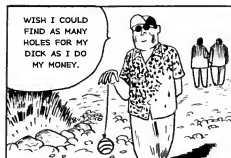
NEOGAWA
KIKUKA STONE.
30,000 YEN.

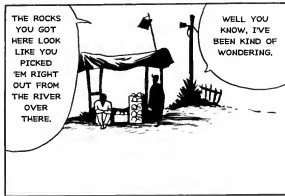
















IT'S TAKEN ME TWO YEARS TO FIND A GOOD SELECTION OF ROCKS FROM THIS RIVER.



(LONE BOAT...?*)



THESE THINGS NEED TO BE SOLD IN AN ANTIQUE STORE.



BUT MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T SELL THEM NEXT TO WHERE YOU PICKED THEM UP.

(*HE'S READING THE KANJI ON THE LABEL ATTACHED TO THE ROCK, JUST IN CASE)



SPIRIT.

WIND.

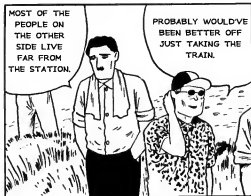
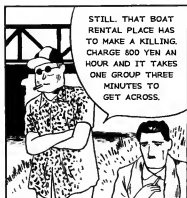
CLOUD.

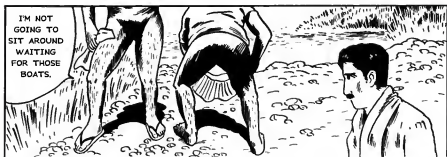


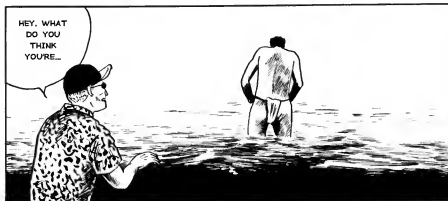
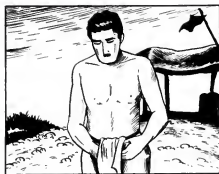
HEH. I SEE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO HERE.

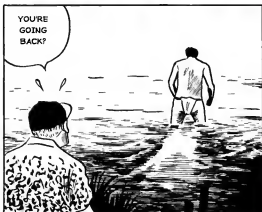
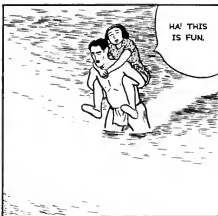


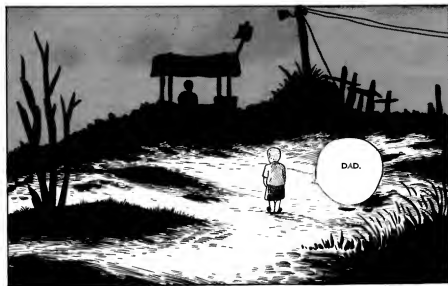
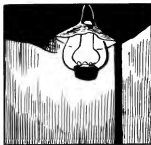














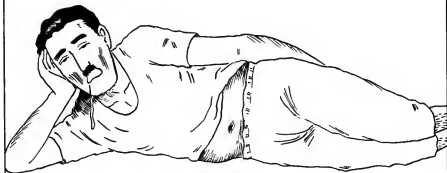


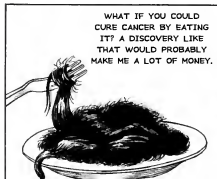
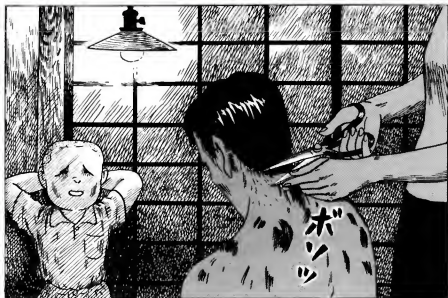
"CROWS ARE SAYING 'IDIOT, IDIOT'". TYPICAL KIND OF MANGA JOKE.

第二話

無能の人

*CHAPTER 2:
A WORTHLESS
PERSON*





IT'S KIND OF
LIKE WHEN I
TAKE WALKS OUT
BY THE RIVER,
I ALWAYS
THINK...



THAT'S
WHY I'M
NEVER
ABLE TO
THROW
ANY OF
IT AWAY.



IF NOT
THAT,
THERE
HAS TO
BE SOME
WAY WE
COULD
USE
IT.

IF ONLY I COULD
MAKE MONEY
OFF OF ALL
THESE ROCKS
SOMEHOW.



"IF ONLY THERE
WAS SOME WAY...",
OVER AND OVER.

JUST,



I CAN
NEVER
COME UP
WITH
ANYTHING.



BUT
POVERTY
DULLS
THE WIT.



I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
AT LEAST
KEEP A
SMALL
COLLECTION
IF I EVER
DO HAPPEN
TO HIT
UPON
ANYTHING.



THAT WAS
THE FIRST
TIME I REALIZED.

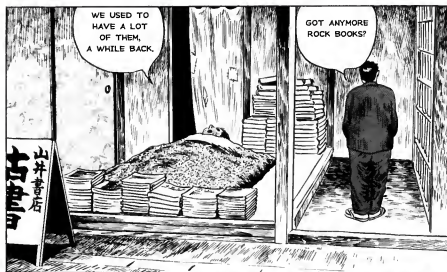


THEN, ONE DAY
I CAME ACROSS
THIS BOOK ABOUT
ROCKS.



THERE ARE
PEOPLE WHO
PAY MONEY
FOR ROCKS.
HOW IS
THAT
POSSIBLE?

THERE ARE
PEOPLE OUT
THERE THAT
THINK ROCKS
ARE LIKE ART.





I THINK
THERE'S
ONE BOOK
OVER THERE.
LOOK AT
IT.



I DON'T
KNOW.
FORGOT.

THE MOST
COMMON SPOTS
TO FIND THEM
ARE AT RIVERS.

ROCK
COLLECTORS
SEARCH FOR
THEIR ROCKS
ALL ACROSS
JAPAN.



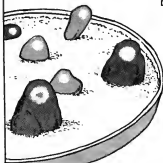
DIFFERENT
LOCATIONS
WILL
PRODUCE
ALL
DIFFERENT
KINDS
OF ROCKS.



SOME PLACES
ARE KNOWN
TO PRODUCE
ROCKS OF VERY
HIGH QUALITY.



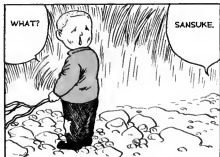
DIFFERENT
PATTERNS,
DIFFERENT
SHAPES.

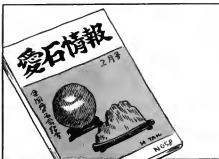
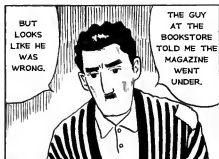


THEN THERE
ARE ALSO
PLACES WITH
ROCKS OF
ALMOST
NO VALUE
AT ALL.











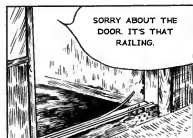
I FOUND
THEIR OFFICE
IN A RUN
DOWN BACK
ALLEY IN
YOYOGI.



HELLO.
I'M SUKESAN
SUKEGAWA.

INSTEAD,
THE DOOR
ALMOST
FELL ON ME
WHEN I TRIED
TO OPEN IT.

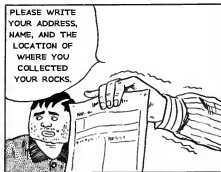
TO BE
HONEST,
I WAS IMAG-
INING A TALL
BUILDING
WITH GLASS
WINDOWS.

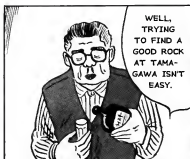


SORRY ABOUT THE
DOOR. IT'S THAT
RAILING.









ORIGINATED
IN CHINA,
THEN CAME
OVER
HERE.



IT ALL STARTED
AROUND THE
FOURTEENTH
CENTURY.

ISHIGUMO
STARTED
GIVING
A LECTURE
ABOUT HOW
ROCKS CAME
TO BE TREATED
AS ART.

STONES THAT WERE APPRECIATED BY
THEMSELVES BECAME CALLED
VIEWING STONES.



THESE BECAME KNOWN
AS BONSAI STONES.



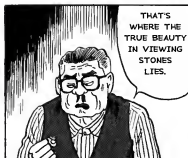
BY THE EDO PERIOD,
PEOPLE HAD BEGUN
TO ARRANGE A FEW
STONES HERE AND
THERE TO COMPLIMENT
DIFFERENT BONSAI
GARDENS THEY WOULD
MAKE.

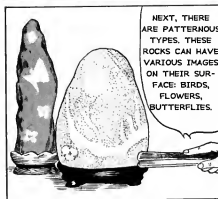
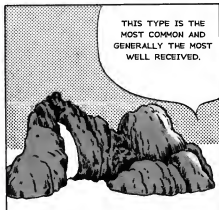


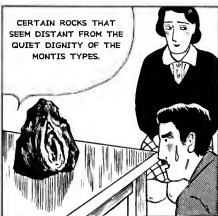
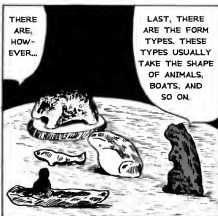
VIEWING STONES,
HOWEVER, MUST
CREATE SCENERY
ENTIRELY BY
THEMSELVES.



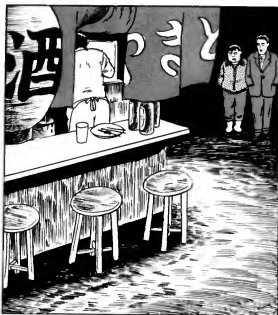
BONSAI STONES HAVE
A RELATIVELY SMALL
ROLE TO FULFILL
IN RECREATING
A LANDSCAPE.



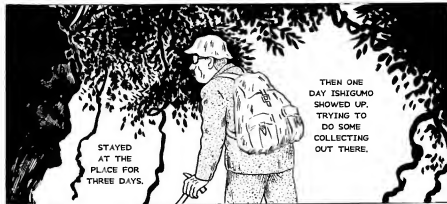






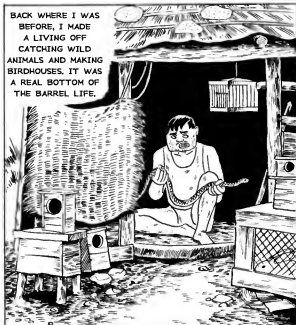








BACK WHERE I WAS
BEFORE, I MADE
A LIVING OFF
CATCHING WILD
ANIMALS AND MAKING
BIRDHOUSES. IT WAS
A REAL BOTTOM OF
THE BARREL LIFE.



BEFORE
I KNEW
IT, I WAS
HIS
PUPIL.

I WENT TO
HIS HOUSE
OVER AND
OVER, TRYING
TO GET HER
BACK.





WONDER HOW
MUCH I'LL MAKE.
NEED TO REMEMBER
TEN PERCENT
OF THE SALE
GOES TO
THEM.



STILL ONE
MONTH UNTIL
THE AUCTION.



NEVER
SEEN ANY
TAMAGAWA
ROCKS AT
THE STORES
I'VE BEEN
TOO
EITHER.

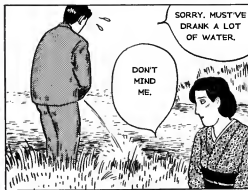
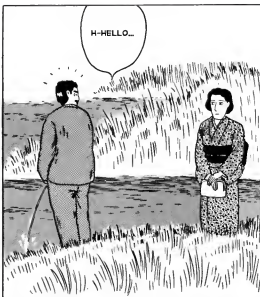


THAT GUIDE I BOUGHT
DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING
ABOUT TAMAGAWA.
MIGHT NOT COME UP
AT THESE AUCTIONS
MUCH.

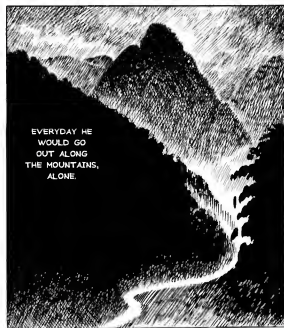


MUST BE
PLAIN.
LIKE
ME.





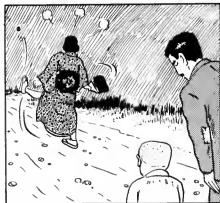
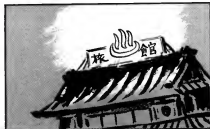






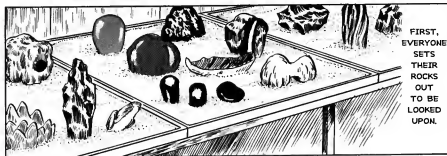
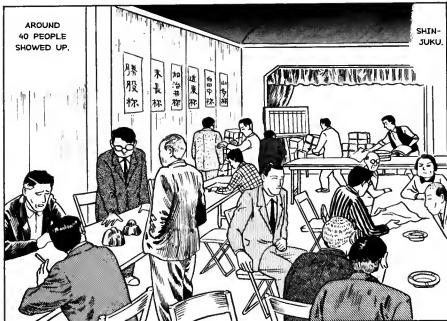
*MAYBE THIS IS A JAPANESE TERM, BUT JUST A PLACE TO GO TO HAVE SEX (YOU BRING THE GIRL...)





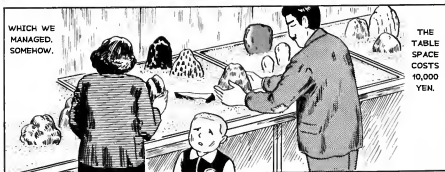
AROUND
40 PEOPLE
SHOWED UP.

SHIN-
JUKU.



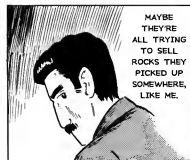
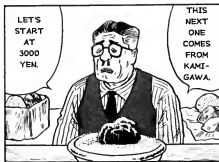
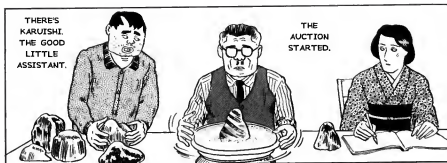
FIRST,
EVERYONE
SETS
THEIR
ROCKS
OUT
TO BE
LOOKED
UPON.

WHICH WE
MANAGED,
SOMEHOW,

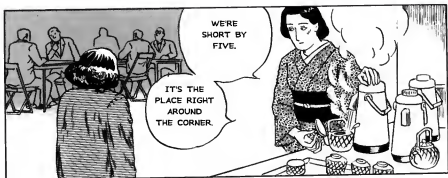


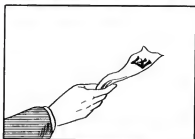
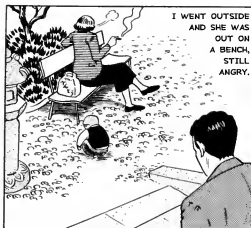
THE
TABLE
SPACE
COSTS
10,000
YEN.



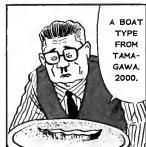






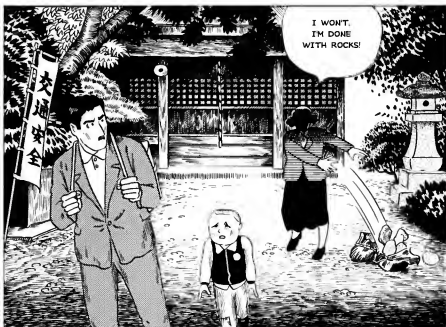


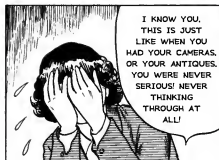
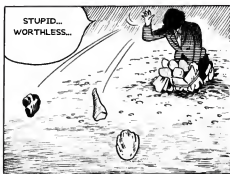
BAD LUCK













CHAPTER 3:
THE BIRD EXPERT

鳥 師



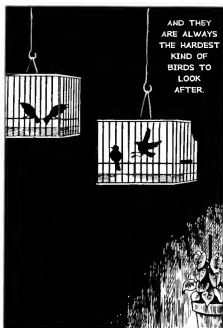
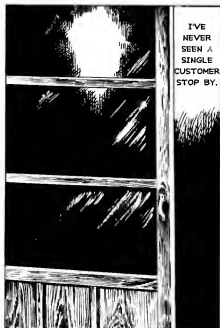
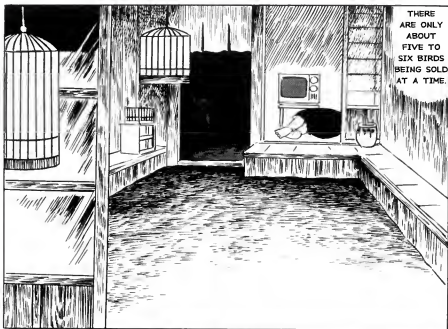
IT SITS SAFELY
OUT OF SIGHT,
ON A ROAD
BARELY EVER
USED BY
ANYONE.

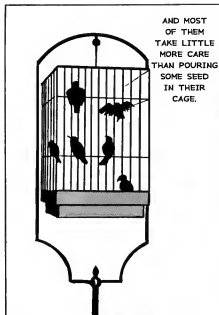
IT'S A VERY
GLOOMY
STORE.



THERE IS A SIGN
IN THE WINDOW SAYING
"MIST NETS* HERE",
EVEN THOUGH THEY
WERE OUTLAWED YEARS
AGO, AND NO ONE WOULD
EVER REALLY WANT
ONE ANYWAY.

*A TYPE OF NET USED FOR CATCHING WILD BIRDS





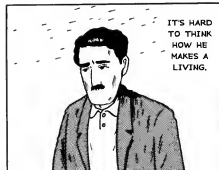
AND MOST
OF THEM
TAKE LITTLE
MORE CARE
THAN POURING
SOME SEED
IN THEIR
CAGE.



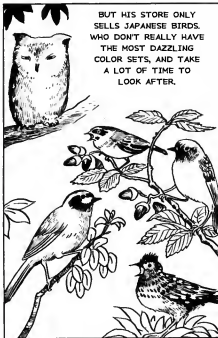
RECENTLY, BIRDS
FROM ABROAD ARE
THE BIG SELLERS.
PARAKEETS, PARROTS...
ANYTHING WITH
LOTS OF COLOR.



THE
GOVERN-
MENT HAS
LAWS THAT
LIMIT
WHAT
JAPANESE
BIRDS CAN
BE SOLD
AS WELL.



IT'S HARD
TO THINK
HOW HE
MAKES A
LIVING.



BUT HIS STORE ONLY
SELLS JAPANESE BIRDS.
WHO DON'T REALLY HAVE
THE MOST DAZZLING
COLOR SETS, AND TAKE
A LOT OF TIME TO
LOOK AFTER.



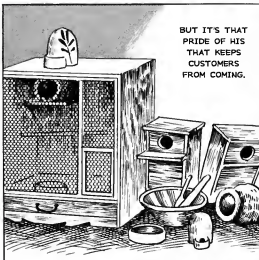
"JAPANESE WHITE-EYE"



NO... MAYBE
EVEN 200,000!
HEHEH.



THINK I MIGHT
BE ABLE TO
MAKE 100,000
OFF OF IT.



BUT IT'S THAT
PRIDE OF HIS
THAT KEEPS
CUSTOMERS
FROM COMING.

TAKING A BIRD THAT
USUALLY GOES FOR 4,500
AND RAISING IT TO GO
FOR THAT MUCH IS
AN IMPRESSIVE SKILL.



BUT MOST
OF THE EXPERTS
ARE MORE
INTERESTED IN
WESTERN
BIRDS
NOWADAYS,
AREN'T THEY?



THEY SAW THE
VALUE IN
JAPANESE
BIRDS.



THE EXPERTS
FROM A
LONG TIME
BACK KNEW
WHAT THEY
WERE
TALKING
ABOUT.

THOSE
BIRDS ARE
NOTHING
BUT TOYS
FOR MOMS
AND THEIR
KIDS.

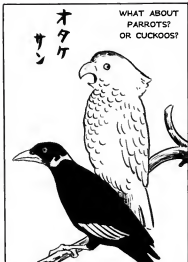
THOSE
FLAMBOYANT
SHOWBOAT
BIRDS? DON'T EVEN
GET ME
STARTED.

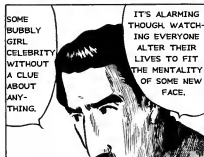
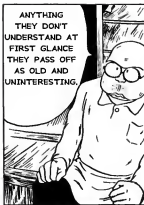
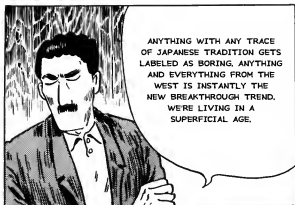


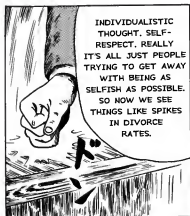
THEY'D
BRIGHTEN
THE PLACE
UP. I'M SURE
THEY'D DRAW
CUSTOMERS
TOO.



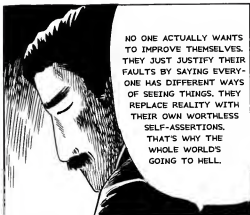
YOU NEED
TO STOP ALL
THIS BLACK
MARKET BIRD
BUSINESS
AND OPEN UP
A PLACE WITH
SOME PARA-
KEETS.







INDIVIDUALISTIC
THOUGHT, SELF-
RESPECT, REALLY
IT'S ALL JUST PEOPLE
TRYING TO GET AWAY
WITH BEING AS
SELFISH AS POSSIBLE.
SO NOW WE SEE
THINGS LIKE SPIKES
IN DIVORCE
RATES.



NO ONE ACTUALLY WANTS
TO IMPROVE THEMSELVES.
THEY JUST JUSTIFY THEIR
FAULTS BY SAYING EVERY-
ONE HAS DIFFERENT WAYS
OF SEEING THINGS. THEY
REPLACE REALITY WITH
THEIR OWN WORTHLESS
SELF-ASSERTIONS.
THAT'S WHY THE
WHOLE WORLD'S
GOING TO HELL.



OPPORTUNITY
COMES FROM
HUMILITY.



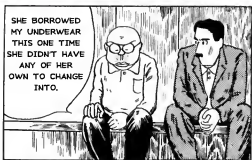
(...DID HE
JUST SAY
THE
D-WORD...?)



(FART)



THE INFINITE
DEPTH FOUND
IN THE WAYS
OF EASTERN
THOUGHT IS THE
ONLY OPTION
AVAILABLE FOR
THE SALVATION
OF HUMANITY.

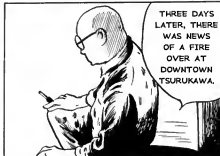


BUT SHE
DIDN'T
COME BACK.

WIFE SAID
SHE WAS
HEADING
TO CHECK
IT OUT.



THREE DAYS
LATER, THERE
WAS NEWS
OF A FIRE
OVER AT
DOWNTOWN
TSURUKAWA.



I SEARCHED
ALL OVER
FOR HER.
WENT TO HER
PARENT'S
HOUSE, HER
RELATIVE'S...



BUT THE TRACKS ARE ONLY OPEN
6 DAYS A MONTH, SO, SHE ONLY
REALLY WORKED 12 DAYS AND MADE
ABOUT JUST 80,000 YEN.



SHE WAS WORKING
AT TWO BIKE RACE
TRACKS BEFORE SHE
DISAPPEARED.



THEN ONE DAY I WENT
THERE TO SEE A RACE.
AND GUESS WHO I FOUND.



BUT NEITHER PLACE
SAID THEY'D HEARD
FROM HER RECENTLY.

I WENT
TO ASK
ABOUT
HER.

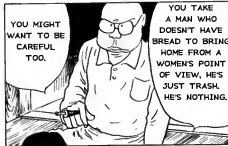
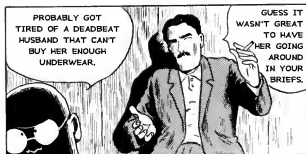
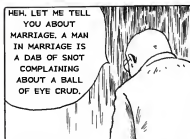


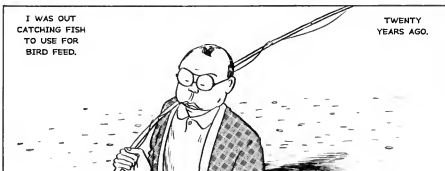
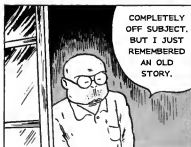
I DON'T KNOW
WHO THIS PERSON
IS. I'VE NEVER
SEEN HIM BEFORE.



I WAS MAD
AT HER,
CLOCKED
HER PRETTY
HARD 'TIL
A GUARD
CAME AND
STOPPED
ME.





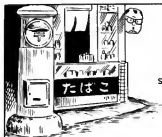




I SAW THIS
HUGE BIRD
PERCHED ON
A TRASH CAN
OUTSIDE THE
STATION.

SITTING
DOWN, EATING
LUNCH.

LOOKING
CLOSER
I REALIZED
IT WAS
JUST SOME
GUY.



LOOKED
LIKE IT
COULD'VE
BEEN A
GIANT
EAGLE OR
SOMETHING.

IT WAS
CREEPING
ME OUT A
GOOD BIT,
BUT...



I THOUGHT HE MIGHT'VE BEEN HOMELESS, BUT HIS LUNCH WAS IN ITS OWN CASE... PROBABLY HAD SOME MONEY, I GUESS.



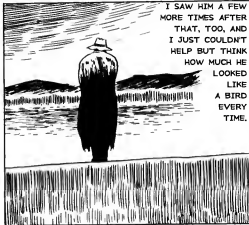
IT WAS STRANGE THOUGH, HE REALLY LOOKED JUST LIKE A BIRD THERE.



BUT IF THAT WAS THE CASE, WHY, WHEN THERE ARE PARKS WITH PLENTY OF BENCHES NEARBY, WAS HE PERCHED ON A TRASH CAN EATING LIKE A BIRD?



I SAW HIM A FEW MORE TIMES AFTER THAT, TOO, AND I JUST COULDN'T HELP BUT THINK HOW MUCH HE LOOKED LIKE A BIRD EVERY TIME.





WITH BIRDS
TO SELL.



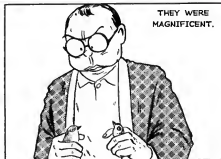
ONE DAY,
HE
FINALLY
SHOWED
UP AT
MY
STORE.



AND HE DIDN'T
BRING THEM
IN CAGES.
THEY WERE
ALL JUST
RESTING
ON HIS
ARM.



I PAID
A LOT.
DIDN'T
EVEN
THINK
ABOUT
IT.



THEY WERE
MAGNIFICENT.



YOU CAN'T
JUST RAISE
BIRDS LIKE
THE ONES HE
HAD, NOT
UNLESS YOU
REALLY KNOW
YOUR
STUFF.

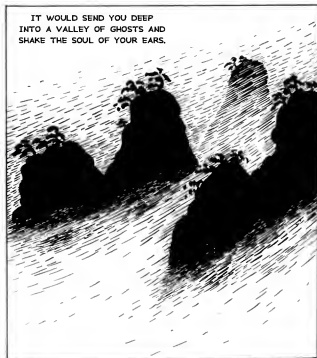


THE MEJIRO
ISN'T REALLY
THOUGHT OF
AS A RARE BIRD,
BUT THE GOOD
ONES ARE HARD
TO FIND.



SOMETIMES
YOU CAN RAISE
100 EGGS
AND HAVE NOT A
SINGLE ONE
TURN OUT GOOD.

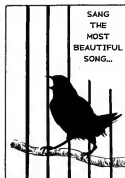
AND EVEN IF
YOU'RE A GOOD
BREEDER, YOU
CAN'T EXPECT
EVERY BIRD YOU
RAISE TO TURN
OUT PERFECT.



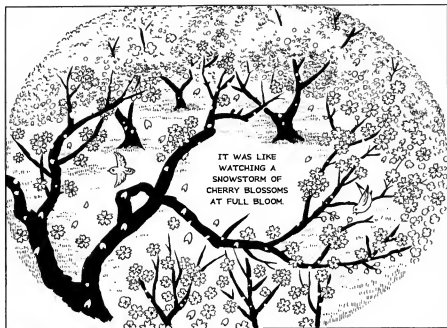
IT WOULD SEND YOU DEEP
INTO A VALLEY OF GHOSTS AND
SHAKE THE SOUL OF YOUR EARS.



BUT THE
MEJIRO HE
BROUGHT
BY...



SANG
THE
MOST
BEAUTIFUL
SONG...



IT WAS LIKE
WATCHING A
SNOWSTORM OF
CHERRY BLOSSOMS
AT FULL BLOOM.



HIS BIRD-
CATCHING
SKILLS HAD
TO BE SEEN
TO BE
BELIEVED.



AFTERWARDS,
THE MAN BROUGHT BY
NIGHTINGALES AND
SKYLARKS AS WELL.



BACK AT THAT
TIME, THIS
PLACE WASN'T
AS DEVELOPED
AS IT IS NOW.
WILD BIRDS
WERE EVERY-
WHERE.

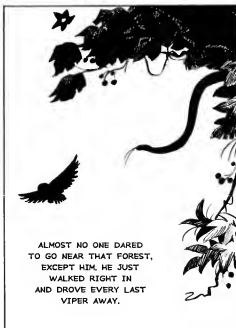
HE DIDN'T
USE ANY
TRAPS. ALL HE
HAD TO DO
WAS WHISTLE
AND THE BIRDS
WOULD COME
TO HIM.



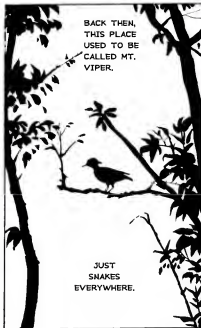
I'D SEEN PEOPLE
CATCHING BIRDS
BEFORE, OF
COURSE, BUT
NONE LIKE HIM.



ALMOST NO ONE DARED
TO GO NEAR THAT FOREST,
EXCEPT HIM. HE JUST
WALKED RIGHT IN
AND DROVE EVERY LAST
VIPER AWAY.



BACK THEN,
THIS PLACE
USED TO BE
CALLED MT.
VIPER.



JUST
SNAKES
EVERYWHERE.



ALL HIS FINGERS COULD BEND 90 DEGREES AT THE FIRST JOINT.



AND HIS HANDS... THEY WERE LIKE BIRD HANDS.

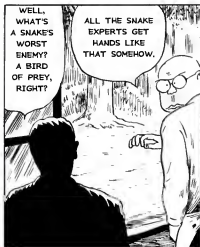


BIRD HANDS?



THIS IS ALL VERY STRANGE.

THE THING IS... IT'S ALMOST AS IF BIRDS WANTED TO GO TO THAT HAND OF HIS.



WELL, WHAT'S A SNAKE'S WORST ENEMY? A BIRD OF PREY, RIGHT?

ALL THE SNAKE EXPERTS GET HANDS LIKE THAT SOMEHOW.



I HAVE, ACTUALLY.

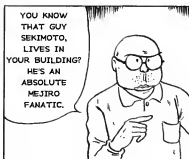
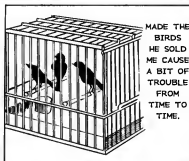
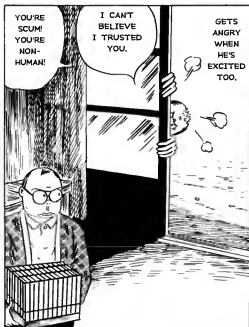
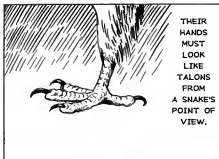
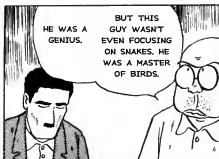
YOU EVER HEARD OF KUDOU THE SNAKE SELLER?

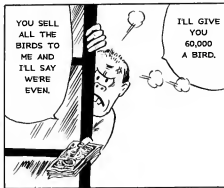
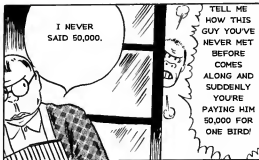
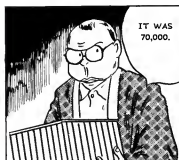
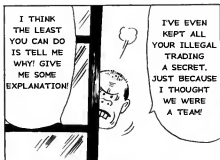


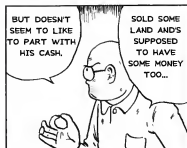
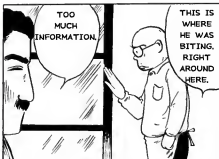
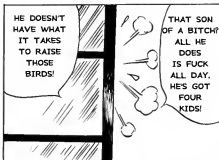
HIS HANDS LOOKED LIKE THIS.

HE DOES ANTIQUES NOW, BUT HE USED TO BE A SNAKE EXPERT.

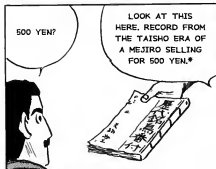
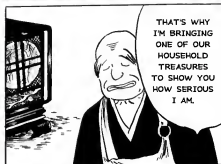
**NOT SO SURPRISINGLY, THIS GUY, THE SNAKE MOUNTAIN, AND SO ON ALL SEEM TO BE BASED ON TSUGE'S REAL PERSONAL EXPERIENCES.*



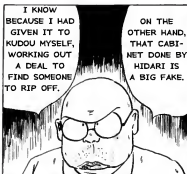




THE GLASSES GUY IS MAKING
THE SYMBOL FOR MONEY.



**I'M GUESSING THE POINT IS THIS WAS AN EXORBITANT PRICE AT THE TIME.*



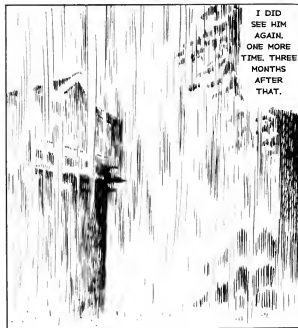
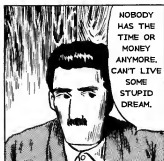
ON THE OTHER HAND, THAT CABINET DONE BY HIDARI IS A BIG FAKE.

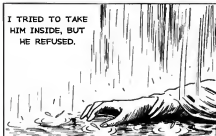


HE PROBABLY KNEW. HE WAS PLAYING WITH US THE WHOLE TIME PROBABLY.

COULDN'T TELL HIM IT WAS A FAKE, OR WE'D BE FOUND OUT.

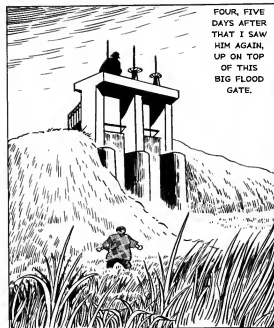








HE WANTED TO
SELL ME THIS BIG
WHITE HERON, BUT
I'VE NEVER TAKEN
CARE OF A BIRD
THAT SIZE BEFORE.
I HAD TO REFUSE.



FOUR, FIVE
DAYS AFTER
THAT I SAW
HIM AGAIN,
UP ON TOP
OF THIS
BIG FLOOD
GATE.



HE'S GOING
TO FLY.

I DON'T KNOW WHY.
ALL OF A SUDDEN,
I JUST FELT IT.

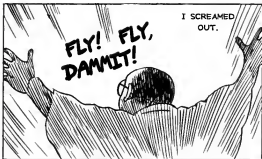


AND HE LOOKED
JUST LIKE HE DID
WHEN I HAD FIRST
SAW HIM, LIKE
A BIRD.



I SCREAMED
OUT.

**FLY! FLY,
DAMMIT!**



...YEP.

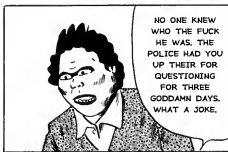
...DID HE?



MY HEART WAS RACING.
I WAS CRYING, I THINK.
TEAR AFTER TEAR.



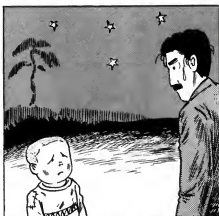












第四話

CHAPTER 4:
OUT SEARCHING
FOR ROCKS

探石行





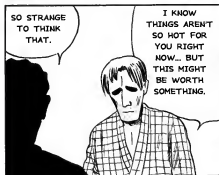
SOMETIMES
THINGS HAPPEN
THAT YOU'D
NEVER EXPECT.



WOW.
YEAH. I
FORGOT
I EVEN
WROTE
THIS.



SAID IT'S
THE FIRST THING
YOU EVER DID.



SO STRANGE
TO THINK
THAT.

I KNOW
THINGS AREN'T
SO HOT FOR
YOU RIGHT
NOW... BUT
THIS MIGHT
BE WORTH
SOMETHING.



ONE OF YOUR
FANS CAME BY
AND LEFT THIS
THE OTHER
DAY.

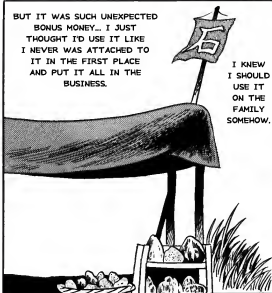


THINGS ARE
SLOW BECAUSE
THERE'S NO
VARIETY HERE.
I'M SURE OF IT.



BUT IT WAS SUCH UNEXPECTED
BONUS MONEY... I JUST
THOUGHT I'D USE IT LIKE
I NEVER WAS ATTACHED TO
IT IN THE FIRST PLACE
AND PUT IT ALL IN THE
BUSINESS.

I KNEW
I SHOULD
USE IT
ON THE
FAMILY
SOMEHOW.



NO ONE'S GOING
FOR JUST THE ROCKS
I'VE COLLECTED
AROUND THE
NEIGHBORHOOD.

IF WE FOUND
ROCKS FROM
SOMEPLACE
ELSE, I THINK
IT MIGHT
ATTRACT
MORE PEOPLE
TO THE
STORE.



YAY! YAY!
LET'S GO!
LET'S GO!

SURE.
I COULD
USE A
BREAK
FROM
HERE.



WE COULD
MAKE A LITTLE
HIKING TRIP
OUT OF IT.



BUT JUST ONE NIGHT
THERE WOULD COST MORE
THAN 30,000 FOR THE
THREE OF US.



THE KAMANASHI RIVER
IN KOSHUU WOULD BE
GOOD. WATERFALLS
PRODUCE THE BEST-
SELLING ROCKS.



SANJO STILL CAN'T
EVEN READ BUT HE'S
LOOKING AT THE
TRAINS, TRYING TO
BE LIKE ME.



DAD.
LET ME
SEE THE
TRAIN
SCHEDULE.

PRETTY
CHEAP
LODGING
IN THE
MOUNTAINS
TOO.

THEY'RE
SUPPOSED
TO HAVE
GOOD ROCKS
THERE.

SO I DECIDED
WE'D TRY THIS
PLACE PAST
HACHIOUJI
CALLED
KATSURAGAWA.



HUM HUM
HUM.



SHE
SEEMS
TO BE
IN A
GOOD
MOOD
TOO.

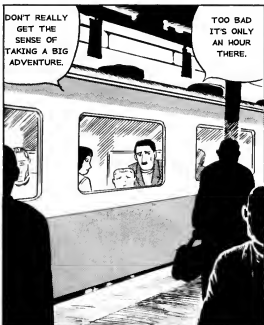




REALLY, IT WOULD BE CHEAPER FOR US TO JUST TAKE A TRAIN OUT OF HACHIOUJI. BUT MY WIFE IS SAYING SHE WANTS TO GO OUT THROUGH SHINJUKU SO IT FEELS MORE LIKE A VACATION.



I'LL BE OUR ITINERARY. WE'LL TAKE OFF IN TEN MINUTES.



DON'T REALLY GET THE SENSE OF TAKING A BIG ADVENTURE.

TOO BAD IT'S ONLY AN HOUR THERE.



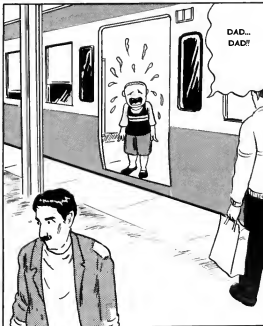
WE NEED TO KEEP ANYONE FROM SITTING THERE.

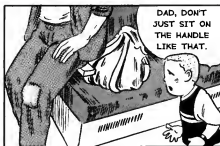
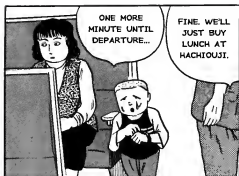


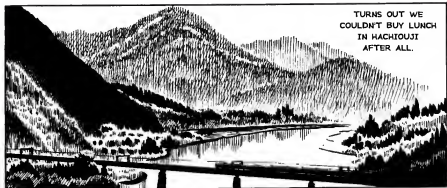
JESUS. SO MANY RULES TO MAKE TRAVELING RIGHT.

OK, OK.

PUT YOUR LUGGAGE IN THE SEAT. SANJO, TRY TO SPREAD OUT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.







TURNS OUT WE
COULDN'T BUY LUNCH
IN HACHIOUJI
AFTER ALL.



I'M
HUNGRY,
DAD...

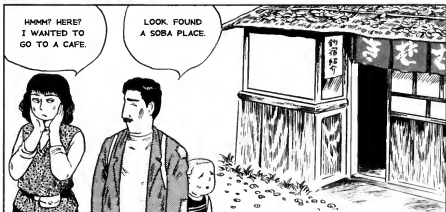
MADE IT
HERE IN
NO TIME.

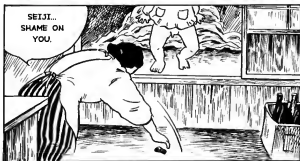
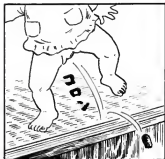
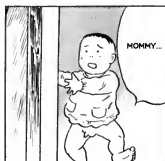


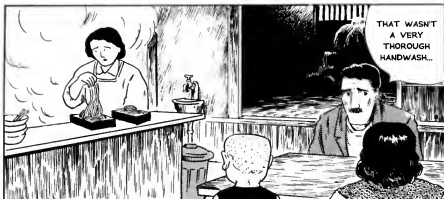
WE'RE IN
THE MIDDLE
OF NOWHERE.

THAT'S THE
STATION THERE
BUT I DON'T
SEE ANYWHERE
TO EAT.

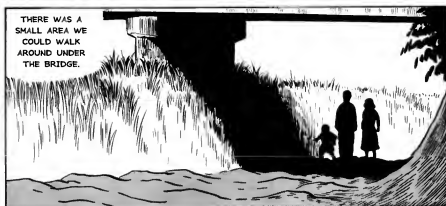
WELL, LET'S
EAT THEN.

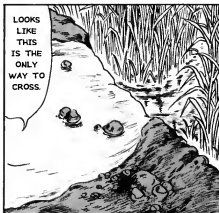


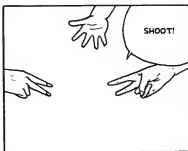


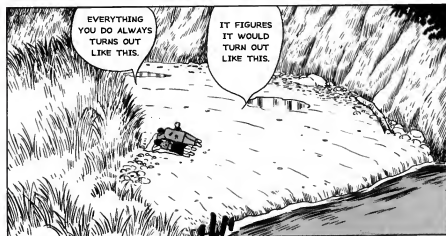
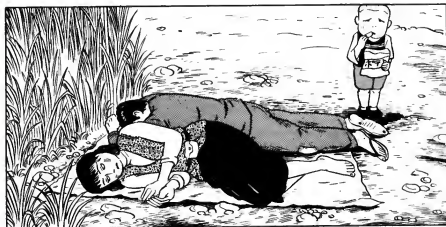
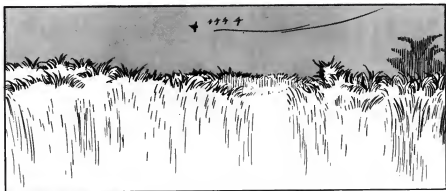




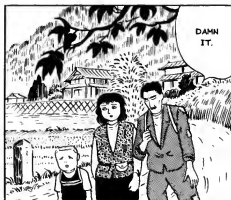




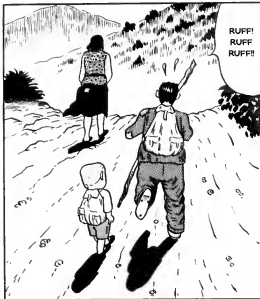


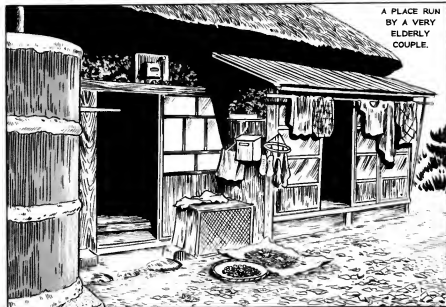
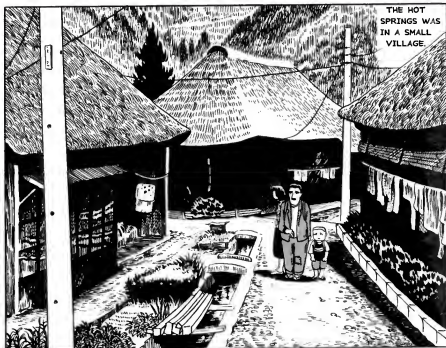


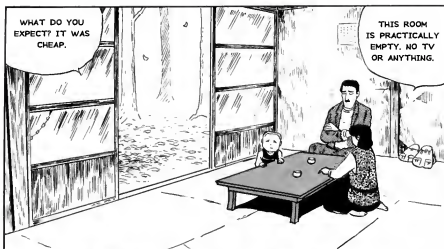




(HE'S BARKING.)



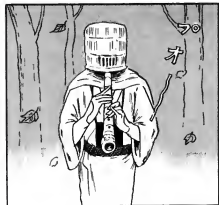






IT'S NOT LIKE
THERE'S
ANYTHING WE
CAN DO
ABOUT IT.

THAT MEAL
WOULD COST
NEXT TO
NOTHING TO
MAKE OUR-
SELVES.

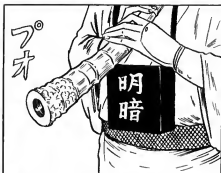
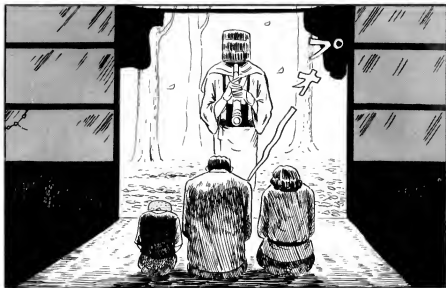
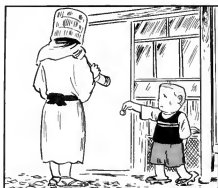


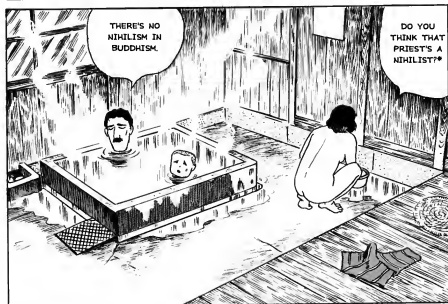
GUESS
SOME OF
THEM STILL
EXIST OUT
HERE.

IT'S ONE
OF THOSE
FUKE SECT
ZEN
PRIESTS.*

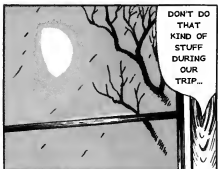
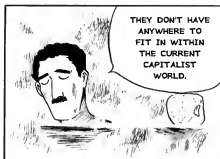


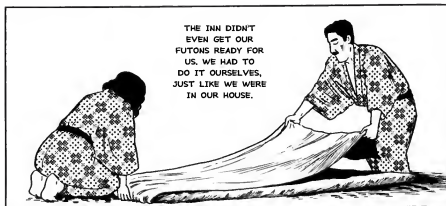
LIKE THE PICTURE, THIS KIND OF ZEN PRIEST WEARS A BASKET





THE PRIESTS OF THE FUKU SECT ARE CALLED "KYOMU PRIESTS",
KYOMU MEANING NOTHING OR, NIHILISM.











第五話

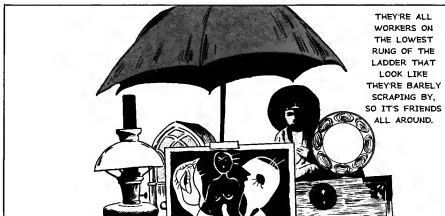
カメラを売る

CHAPTER 5:
SELLING CAMERAS

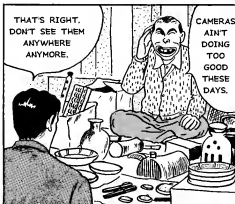
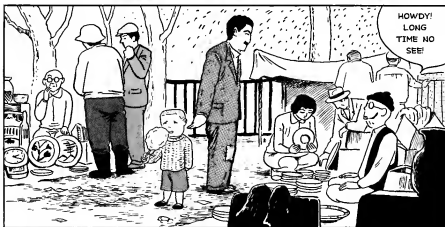


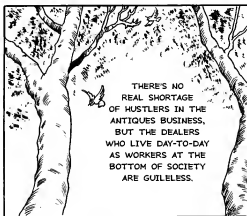
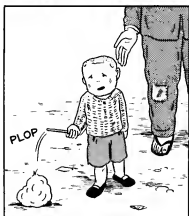


COTTON CANDY, 1 FOR 100 YEN

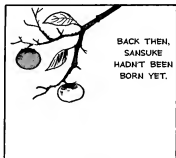
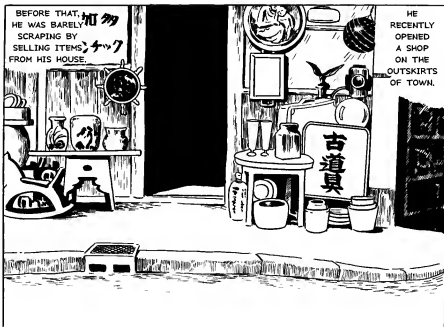


THEY'RE ALL
WORKERS ON
THE LOWEST
RUNG OF THE
LADDER THAT
LOOK LIKE
THEY'RE BARELY
SCRAPING BY,
SO IT'S FRIENDS
ALL AROUND.







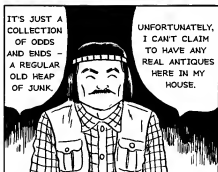




I'VE
ALWAYS
ENJOYED
OLD
JUNK,
SO I
KNOCKED
ON THE
DOOR.



ONE DAY DURING
THAT TIME,
I FOUND MYSELF
IN FRONT OF
NAKATA'S HOUSE
AT THE END OF
AN ALLEY THAT
I'D NEVER SET
FOOT IN BEFORE.



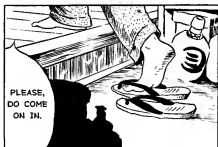
IT'S JUST A
COLLECTION
OF ODDS
AND ENDS -
A REGULAR
OLD HEAP
OF JUNK.

UNFORTUNATELY,
I CAN'T CLAIM
TO HAVE ANY
REAL ANTIQUES
HERE IN MY
HOUSE.



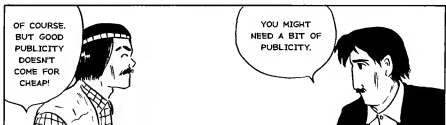
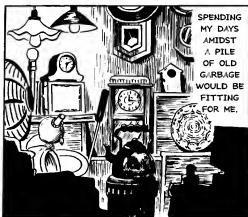
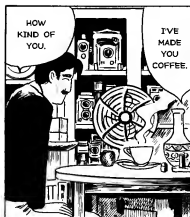
NO, NOTHING
IN PARTICULAR.
I JUST LIKE
ANTIQUES, SO...

LOOKING
FOR SOME-
THING
SPECIFIC?



PLEASE,
DO COME
ON IN.







WHERE
DO YOU
FIND
YOUR
ITEMS?

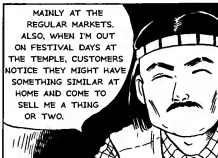


PUBLIC
BATHS?!

COULDN'T
YOU PUT UP
A SIGN IN
THE PUBLIC
BATHS?



I PREFER BUYING
DIRECTLY FROM
INDIVIDUALS,
BUT WITHOUT
A REAL STORE,
SUCH OCCASIONS
ARE RARE.

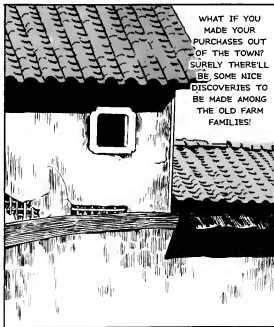


MAINLY AT THE
REGULAR MARKETS.
ALSO, WHEN I'M OUT
ON FESTIVAL DAYS AT
THE TEMPLE, CUSTOMERS
NOTICE THEY MIGHT HAVE
SOMETHING SIMILAR AT
HOME AND COME TO
SELL ME A THING
OR TWO.

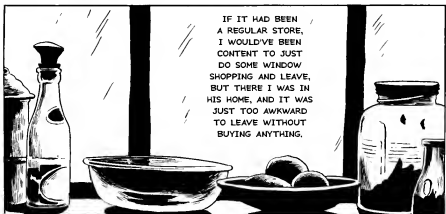
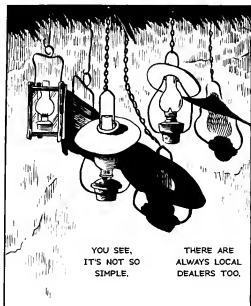
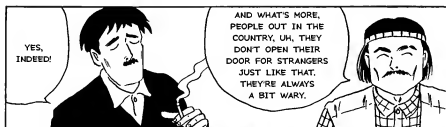


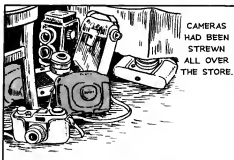
I CAN'T GO TO
THE RURAL DISTRICTS.
THE COSTS ARE ENORMOUS,
AND THE RISK OF COMING
HOME EMPTY-HANDED
TOO HIGH.

OH,
RIGHT.
I SEE...

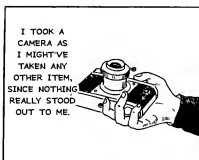


WHAT IF YOU
MADE YOUR
PURCHASES OUT
OF THE TOWN?
SURELY THERE'LL
BE SOME NICE
DISCOVERIES TO
BE MADE AMONG
THE OLD FARM
FAMILIES!





CAMERAS
HAD BEEN
STREWN
ALL OVER
THE STORE.



I TOOK A
CAMERA AS
I MIGHT'VE
TAKEN ANY
OTHER ITEM,
SINCE NOTHING
REALLY STOOD
OUT TO ME.



I WAS UNDER
THE IMPRESSION
THAT CAMERAS WERE
QUITE VALUABLE,
BUT APPARENTLY
BROKEN ONES ARE
HARDLY WORTH
A CENT.

I DON'T
HAVE A
SINGLE
ONE THAT
WORKS,
SO THEY'RE
ALL 1,000
YEN EACH.



NOTHING
WRONG
WITH IT.

ANTIQUES, HUH...
IT'S A PRETTY
NICE BUSINESS.



MANGA ISN'T
SOMETHING
YOU CAN DO
FOREVER.
I'LL HAVE TO
GIVE IT UP
SOONER OR
LATER.

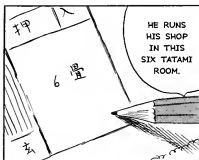


I SUDDENLY GOT
THE IRRESISTIBLE
URGE TO BECOME AN
ANTIQUE DEALER
IN MY HEAD.



IT MIGHT BE
MORE PRUDENT
TO ABANDON IT
WHILE THERE'S
STILL TIME.

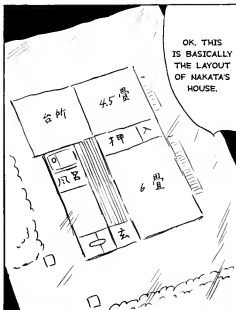




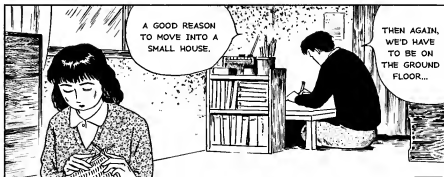
HE RUNS
HIS SHOP
IN THIS
SIX TATAMI
ROOM.



A TWO
BEDROOM
HOUSE
WITH A
KITCHEN IS
ENOUGH.



OK, THIS
IS BASICALLY
THE LAYOUT
OF NAKATA'S
HOUSE.



A GOOD REASON
TO MOVE INTO A
SMALL HOUSE.

THEN AGAIN,
WE'D HAVE
TO BE ON
THE GROUND
FLOOR...



WITH THE SHOP
IN YOUR HOUSE,
YOU SAVE TIME
AND MONEY! I'LL
HAVE FLEXIBLE
HOURS.



RENTING A
SHOP WOULD
MEAN TWO
RENTS TO PAY,
INCLUDING
THE APART-
MENT.

OR EVEN TAKE
A QUICK NAP.



GOOD
IDEA!
HEE
HEE
HEE.



THE OTHER
BENEFIT
IS THAT
I COULD
DRAW
MANGA
WHILE
BUSINESS
IS SLOW...



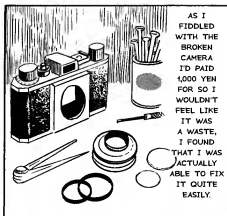
WHAT'S
SO FUNNY?

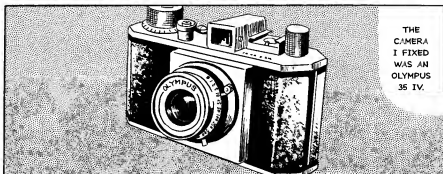


ENSHRINED
BENEATH A
COLLECTION
OF ANTIQUES.
THAT'LL BE
NICE...









THE
CAMERA
I FIXED
WAS AN
OLYMPUS
35 IV.



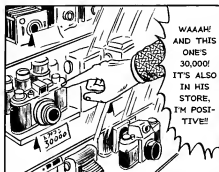
SOON
AFTER THAT,
WE FOUND THE
SAME MODEL AT
A SECOND-HAND
STORE FOR
14,000 YEN!



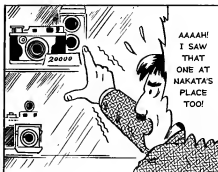
S-S-SO
THAT CAMERA
WAS PRETTY
V-VALUABLE
AFTER ALL!



SEE!
I DID IT!
I SAVED
13,000
YEN!



WAAAAH!
AND THIS
ONE'S
30,000!
IT'S ALSO
IN HIS
STORE,
I'M POSI-
TIVE!!



AAAAH!
I SAW
THAT
ONE AT
NAKATA'S
PLACE
TOO!

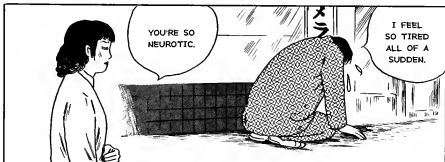


ARE YOU
FEELING
OKAY?

堂カノラ



AAAAH!
AAAAH!



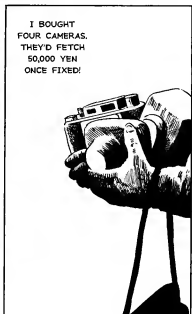
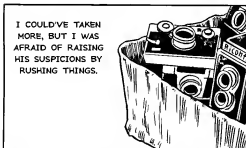
YOU'RE SO
NEUROTIC.

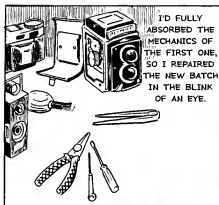
メウ
I FEEL
SO TIRED
ALL OF A
SUDDEN.

BROKEN
OBJECTS
BECOME
VALUABLE
THE MOMENT
THEY'RE IN
WORKING
ORDER.

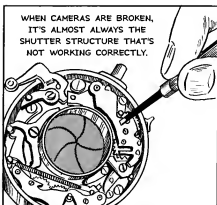


I RUSHED
TO NAKATA'S
HOUSE AGAIN.





I'D FULLY
ABSORBED THE
MECHANICS OF
THE FIRST ONE,
SO I REPAIRED
THE NEW BATCH
IN THE BLINK
OF AN EYE.



WHEN CAMERAS ARE BROKEN,
IT'S ALMOST ALWAYS THE
SHUTTER STRUCTURE THAT'S
NOT WORKING CORRECTLY.



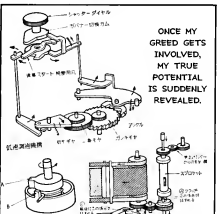
I HAMMERED
THE IN-
DUSTRIAL
LITERATURE OF MORE
THAN 2,000
MODELS
INTO MY
HEAD!



NEXT,
I LOOKED
UP THE
MARKET
PRICES BY
PERUSING
THE ADS IN
MAGAZINES
FOR CAMERA
AFICIONADOS.



AND SO,
THROUGH
MY TRIPS
TO AND FROM
NAKATA-SAN'S
HOUSE...



ONCE MY
GREED GETS
INVOLVED,
MY TRUE
POTENTIAL
IS SUDDENLY
REVEALED.

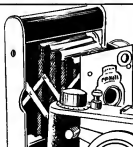
...AND KUDOU,
WHO USED TO SELL
SNAKES BUT CHANGED
PROFESSIONS.



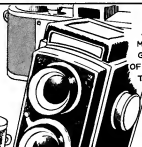
...I MET OTHER
ANTIQUE DEALERS,
SUCH AS SUZUMOTO,
FUKADA...



APPARENTLY
PROCURING
CAMERAS ISN'T
MUCH OF A
PROBLEM FOR
ANTIQUARIANS.



THEY
ALL LENT
ME A HAND,
GOING OUT
OF THEIR WAY
TO GATHER
CAMERAS
FOR ME.



A 3-400,000
YEN INVEST-
MENT FOR A
COLLECTION
WORTH MORE
THAN TWO
MILLION!

I QUICKLY
FOUND MYSELF
IN POSSESSION
OF MORE THAN
200 OF THEM
ALL THANKS TO
THEIR HELP!



HEH HEH
HEH! IT'S
SHOCKING
THAT A MAN
LIKE ME
COULD HAVE
SUCH SKILL
HIDDEN
INSIDE
HIM.





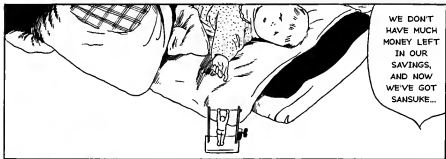
I HOPE SO!
BECAUSE
RIGHT NOW
YOU'RE JUST
USING THEM
TO DECORATE
OUR SHELVES.



HOW ARE
YOU GOING TO
CHANGE THIS
INTO ACTUAL
INCOME?



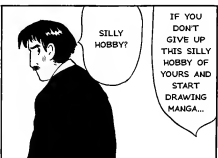
INSTEAD
OF ANTIQUES,
I'M GOING TO
SELL CAMERAS!



WE DON'T
HAVE MUCH
MONEY LEFT
IN OUR
SAVINGS,
AND NOW
WE'VE GOT
SANSUKE...

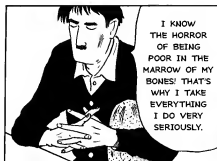


YOU THINK
I'M DOING
THIS FOR
FUN?!

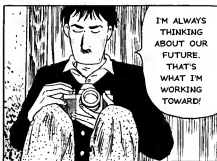


SILLY
HOBBY?

IF YOU
DON'T
GIVE UP
THIS SILLY
HOBBY OF
YOURS AND
START
DRAWING
MANGA...



I KNOW THE HORROR OF BEING POOR IN THE MARROW OF MY BONES! THAT'S WHY I TAKE EVERYTHING I DO VERY SERIOUSLY.



I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT OUR FUTURE. THAT'S WHAT I'M WORKING TOWARD!



YOU'VE BEEN TWIDDLING YOUR THUMBS, WAITING FOR A JOB TO FALL FROM THE SKY. WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO SELL THEM ON SOMETHING?



MY INK'S GONE MOLDY IN ITS BOTTLE!



YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT NOBODY'S HIRED ME TO DRAW MANGA ALL YEAR.



AND ONCE WORD GETS OUT, THEN YES, IN THAT CASE, I WON'T BE GETTING A SINGLE OFFER MY WAY!



TRYING TO SELL THEM AN IDEA IS FINE IF YOU'RE A NEW ARTIST. BUT FOR A GUY LIKE ME, WITH AN ESTABLISHED CAREER... PEOPLE WILL THINK THAT I'M ON THE WAY OUT!



YOU UNDERSTAND NOTHING ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF MANGA!



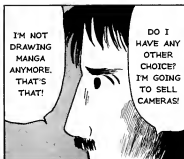
BEING LABELED AN "AUTEUR" IS THE VERY THING THAT'S HOLDING ME BACK.



BUT YOU'VE HAD GOOD REVIEWS FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU'VE EVER PUBLISHED. THEY CALL YOU AN AUTEUR.



I'M NOT
DRAWING
MANGA
ANYMORE.
THAT'S
THAT!



DO I
HAVE ANY
OTHER
CHOICE?
I'M GOING
TO SELL
CAMERAS!



WHAT GOOD
IS 'ART' TO
THE BUSINESS
OF MANGA?
IT'S UNNEC-
ESSARY, A
NUISANCE!



YOU MAKE
ME WORRIED,
YOU KNOW.
YOU ALWAYS
END UP ACTING
AGAINST YOUR
OWN BEST
INTERESTS.
IT'S YOUR
NATURE.





平336 埼玉県浦和市北區
コンタックスII A 3.5 量A 2 ビデオ 3.5 プナー
135 各 アスファイン 2 箱以上 30 万 ミニコ
ード車 ケース 説明書附 10 万 レオタックス G トプ
コーナー 2 ラク カメラ 1 台 5 万 コダック ボケッ
50 水中 ケース 附 2 万 でゆつる。
平333 横浜市港南区日野町 8-13
松岡 正由

FROM
THEN ON,
I PUT OUT
AN AD
EVERY
MONTH.
SALES
WERE
GOING
WELL.

...MADE ROUNDS
AT THE LOCAL
FLEA MARKETS
IN HOPES OF
A FIND...

I PREPARED
PACKAGES FOR
DELIVERY...

...REPLIED TO
LETTERS... ~

より安い！通信販売！
ピンチ商会
代表

AND
I EVEN
LAUNCHED
MY OWN
CATALOG.

代表
助川助三

I 35 (フライング)
(ホタル)キフトセット..
II (ホタル).....

アイレスパイカウント
マニパツガ

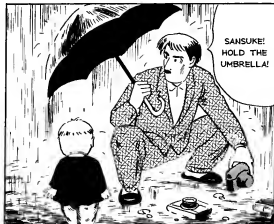
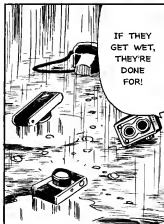
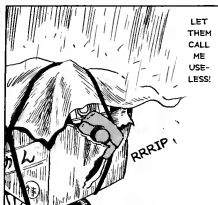
代表
助川 助三

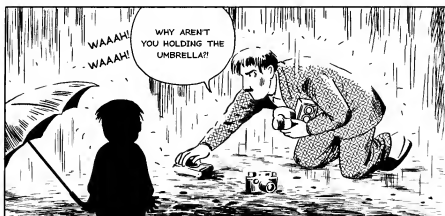
1,800 AB
3,500 NEW
2,000 AB

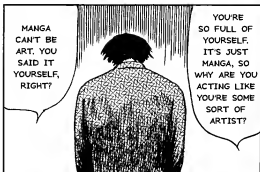
ソリゴ-445 (7スコン)
Pシカ35YK
コニカ
オリンパスI-2
シカ35YK

BEST PRICES AVAILABLE! MAIL ORDER! MANAGER: SUKEZOU SUKEKAWA

NOTE: QUOTING FROM KENJI MIYAZAWA'S POEM, 'BE NOT DEFEATED BY THE RAIN' (AME NI MO MAKEZU), TRANSLATION BY DAVID SULZ.



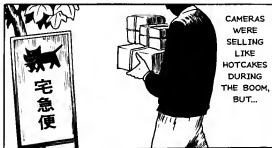
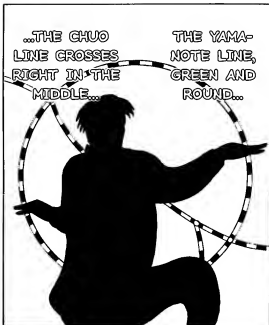




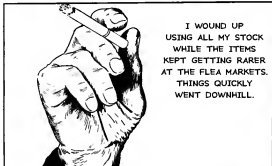


NOTE: QUOTING AN ADVERTISEMENT
FOR YODOBASHI CAMERA

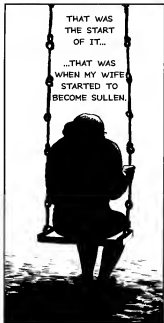
NOTE: TWO OF THE BIGGEST CAMERA
& ELECTRONICS CHAINS IN JAPAN
WHEN THIS WAS TAKING PLACE.

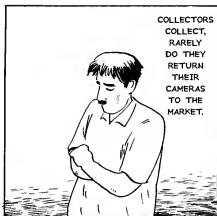


CAMERAS WERE SELLING LIKE HOTCAKES DURING THE BOOM, BUT...



I WOUND UP USING ALL MY STOCK WHILE THE ITEMS KEPT GETTING RARER AT THE FLEA MARKETS. THINGS QUICKLY WENT DOWNHILL.





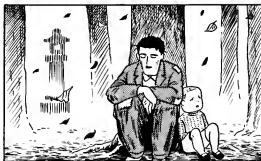
COLLECTORS
COLLECT,
RARELY
DO THEY
RETURN
THEIR
CAMERAS
TO THE
MARKET.



AND
SOMEONE
WITH NO
SHOP SET UP
HAS A HARD
TIME SINCE
THEY CAN'T
PURCHASE
STOCK
LIKE THEY
NORMALLY
WOULD.



NAKATA HAD
TAUGHT ME MUCH.
THANKS TO HIM,
I GOT MY LICENSE
TO SELL ANTIQUES,
BUT IT DIDN'T
CHANGE ANYTHING.



ALL WAS
LOST...



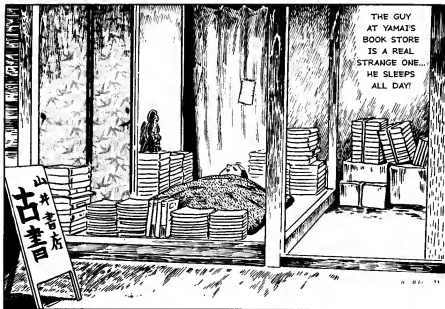


第六話

CHAPTER 6:
DISAPPEARING
INTO THE FOG

蒸 発





BECAUSE OF THAT,
HE NEVER GETS
ANY CUSTOMERS.

HE LAYS THERE GLOOMILY,
WITHOUT SHOWING THE
SLIGHTEST INTENTION
OF DOING ANYTHING.



HE WANDERED
AIMLESSLY,
KNEES WOBBLING
AS THOUGH HE
WERE IMITATING
SOMEONE ELDERLY
OR CRIPPLED.

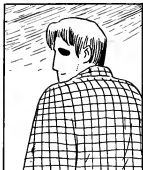
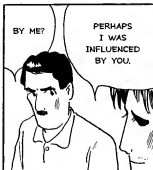
THE OTHER DAY,
HE WENT OUT
FOR A WALK.
IT WAS QUITE
OUT OF THE
ORDINARY.



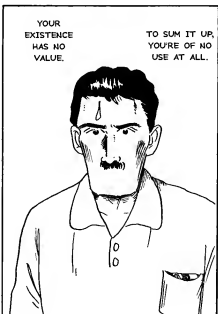
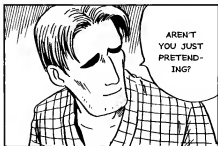
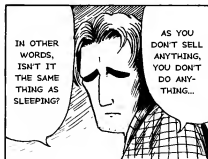
YET ACCORDING
TO HIS WIFE,
HE'S NEVER EVEN
BEEN SICK.

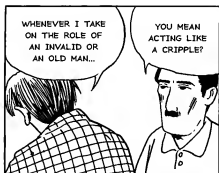


POSTER: I AM THE TRUTH



VIEWING STONE CAMPAIGN GOING ON NOW





HE SAYS
HE'S FROM
TAKATO,
A TOWN
NEAR INA.

YAMAI
WAS VERY
DISCREET
ABOUT HIS
PAST.



BUT
THERE WAS
NO USED
BOOKSTORE
IN THE
AREA.

AND THEN
HE CAME AND
SETTLED IN
OUR NEIGH-
BORHOOD.



A MERE FANCY
RATHER THAN
A SERIOUS JOB,
BUT IT FIT HIM
LIKE A GLOVE.



RUMORS SAY THAT
HE USED TO SELL
SECOND-HAND BOOKS.





MIND
SHOWING
ME SOME
OF YOUR
WARES?

WE SPECIALIZE
IN RARE OLD
BOOKS WHICH
WE SELL FROM
OUR CATALOG...



HE MANAGED
TO FIND THE
ADDRESS OF ONE
IN A DIRECTORY
AND WENT THERE,
BUT THE STORE
WAS NOW GONE.



I JUST LOST
MY HUSBAND...
AND I, I KNOW
NOTHING ABOUT
BOOKS.



FOR GOOD?
YOU STILL HAVE
SO MANY BOOKS
THOUGH.

I'M SORRY,
BUT WE'VE
CLOSED.



A FEW OTHERS
HAVE OFFERED
TO RESELL
THEM FOR ME,
BUT THEY PAY
SO LITTLE...

AAAH...
I STILL
DON'T
KNOW.

WHAT
DO YOU
PLAN TO
DO WITH
ALL THESE
BOOKS
THEN?

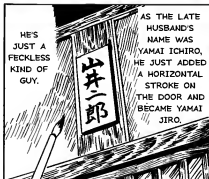
FROM COMING AND
GOING TO BUY THE BOOKS,
HE QUICKLY ENDED UP
WITH THE WIDOW.



IN THAT CASE,
WOULD YOU
PLEASE LET ME
TAKE CARE
OF IT?

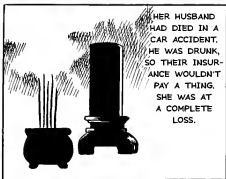


HE'S
JUST A
FECKLESS
KIND OF
GUY.

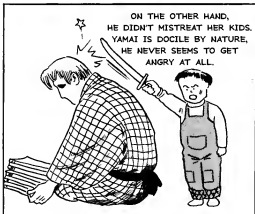


AS THE LATE
HUSBAND'S
NAME WAS
YAMAI ICHIRO,
HE JUST ADDED
A HORIZONTAL
STROKE ON
THE DOOR AND
BECAME YAMAI
JIRO.

HER HUSBAND
HAD DIED IN A
CAR ACCIDENT.
HE WAS DRUNK,
SO THEIR INSUR-
ANCE WOULDN'T
PAY A THING.
SHE WAS AT
A COMPLETE
LOSS.

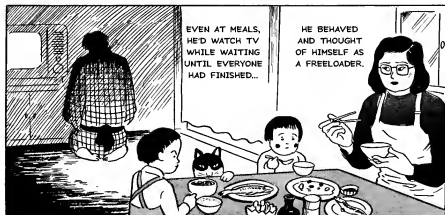


ON THE OTHER HAND,
HE DIDN'T MISTREAT HER KIDS.
YAMAI IS DOCILE BY NATURE,
HE NEVER SEEMS TO GET
ANGRY AT ALL.



LATER,
HE REOPENED
THE STORE. BUT
HE WAS SO LAZY!
IT WAS A BIG
DISAPPOINTMENT
FOR HER.



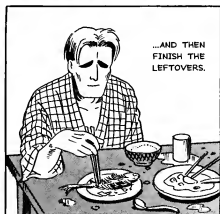


EVEN AT MEALS,
HE'D WATCH TV
WHILE WAITING
UNTIL EVERYONE
HAD FINISHED...

HE BEHAVED
AND THOUGHT
OF HIMSELF AS
A FREELOADER.



ONE CURIOUS
THING ABOUT IT
WAS THE RUMOR
THAT HE WAS
ALREADY MARRIED
AND HAD LEFT
HIS WIFE IN HIS
HOMETOWN
OF INA...



...AND THEN
FINISH THE
LEFTOVERS.



I'LL HAVE
TO GO BACK
SOONER OR
LATER.



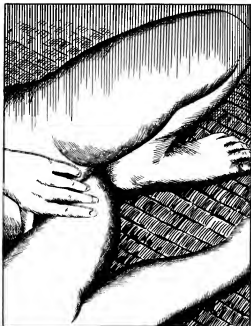
I'M ONLY
HERE FOR
A SPELL...



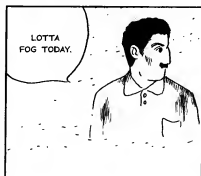
THE RUMOR
SPRANG
FROM HIM.
HE'D SOME-
TIMES LET
SOMETHING
ODD SLIP
OUT.













I DON'T KNOW
MUCH ABOUT HAIKU,
BUT YAMAI SAYS THIS
POET IS THE PRIDE
OF HIS HOMETOWN.
HE WANTED ME
TO READ IT AT
ANY COST.



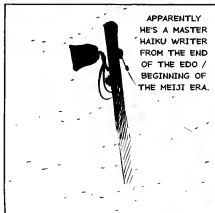
YAMAI
LOANED
ME THIS
BOOK.

俳
人
泊
井
月
全
集
COMPLETE
WORKS OF
SEIGETSU,
WANDERING
POET



THE CRY
OF A HERON
FROM SOME-
WHERE...

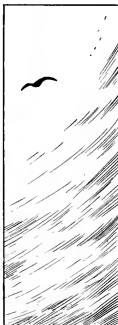
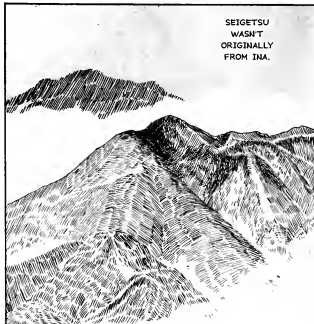
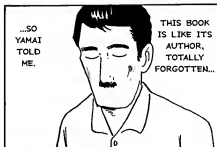
KUWAAAA



APPARENTLY
HE'S A MASTER
HAIKU WRITER
FROM THE END
OF THE EDO /
BEGINNING OF
THE MEIJI ERA.



SEIGETSU
YANAGINOYA...
SOME NAME!
NEVER HEARD
OF HIM.

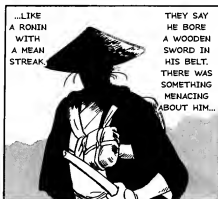
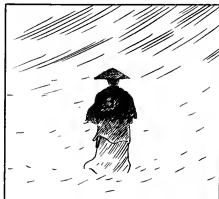


IN THE 5TH YEAR
OF ANSEI (1858),
AT THE AGE OF 36
OR 37 (WE ASSUME),
SEIGETSU ABRUPTLY
SHOWED UP IN
THE VALLEY.

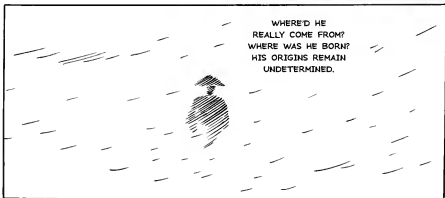


...LIKE
A RONIN
WITH
A MEAN
STREAK.

THEY SAY
HE BORE
A WOODEN
SWORD IN
HIS BELT.
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
MENACING
ABOUT HIM...



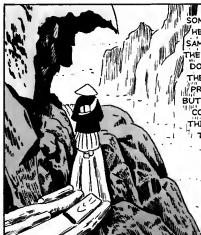
WHERE'D HE
REALLY COME FROM?
WHERE WAS HE BORN?
HIS ORIGINS REMAIN
UNDETERMINED.



SINCE HE
LIVED TO WRITE,
HIS JOURNALS OR
CORRESPONDENCE
SHOULD HAVE
INFORMED US
OF HIS PAST.



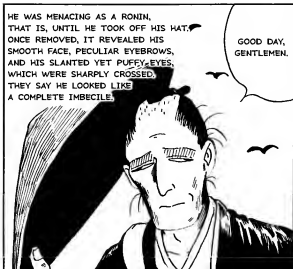
SOME CLAIM
HE WAS A
SAMURAI OF
THE NAGAOKA
DOMAIN IN
THE ECHIGO
PROVINCE,
BUT NOTHING
CONFIRMS
THIS HYPOTHE-
SIS.



BUT HE HADN'T LEFT
A SINGLE TRACE - NOT
ONE PIECE OF EVIDENCE
FOR RESEARCHERS - AS
IF HE HAD DISSOLVED
INTO THE FOG.

HE WAS MENACING AS A RONIN,
THAT IS, UNTIL HE TOOK OFF HIS HAT.
ONCE REMOVED, IT REVEALED HIS
SMOOTH FACE, PECULIAR EYEBROWS,
AND HIS SLANTED YET PUFFY EYES,
WHICH WERE SHARPLY CROSSED.
THEY SAY HE LOOKED LIKE
A COMPLETE IMBECILE.

GOOD DAY,
GENTLEMEN.



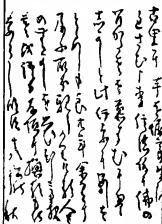
THERE IS ONLY
A LETTER ADDRESSED TO
AN UNKNOWN RECIPIENT,
THANKS TO WHICH WE'VE
LEARNED HIS TRUE NAME:
KATSUZO INOUE.



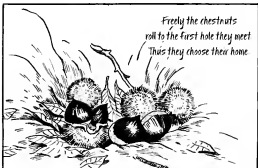


THE PEASANTS TREATED HIM AS AN INCREDIBLE INTELLECTUAL, AND HE WAS ALWAYS WELCOME. THEY'D CRY OUT TO HIM: "MASTER! MASTER!"

HOWEVER, HE WAS PEERLESS IN HIS REFINEMENT. A MASTER CALLIGRAPHER, VIVID IN BOTH HIS WRITING AND HIS SPEECH: HIS TALENTS WERE PRODIGIOUS.



MASTER!
A POEM
ABOUT
CHESTNUTS,
PLEASE!

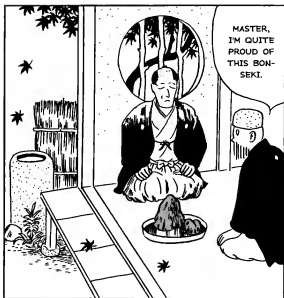


Freely the chestnuts
roll to the first hole they meet
Thus they choose their home

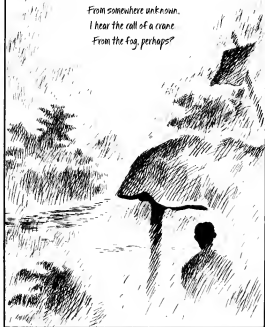


The impending rain
reminds the poet of that
stifling time of bloom.

Oh, grass-leaf sweet flag!
Ever present on a stone
like you are its skin.

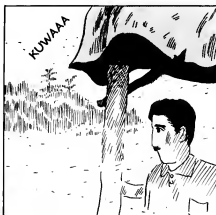
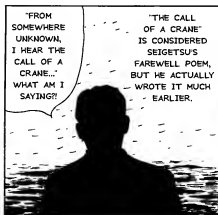


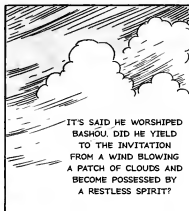
From somewhere unknown,
I hear the call of a crane
From the fog, perhaps?



MASTER,
THE FOG
SURE IS
THICK
TODAY!



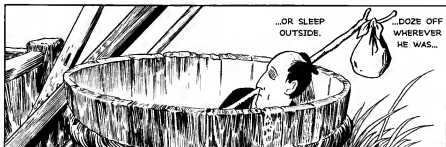




NOTE: LIBERALLY INSPIRED BY BASHOU'S
"OKU NO HOSOMICHI."

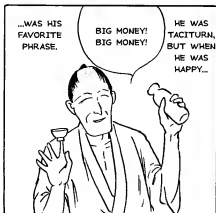


HE'D PASS
THE NIGHT
WITH HAIKU
BUFFS...



...OR SLEEP
OUTSIDE.

...DOZE OFF
WHEREVER
HE WAS...



...WAS HIS
FAVORITE
PHRASE.

BIG MONEY!
BIG MONEY!

HE WAS
TACITURN,
BUT WHEN
HE WAS
HAPPY...



HE WAS
NATURALLY
GOOD-HUMORED,
COURTEOUS,
AND HAD GOOD
MANNERS.

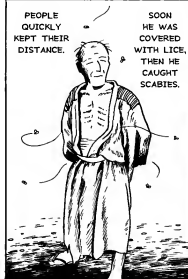
SOMETIMES
HE WOULD
EVEN SOIL
HIMSELF.

BUT HE DRANK LIKE
NOBODY'S BUSINESS,
EVEN THOUGH HE COULDN'T
HOLD HIS LIQUOR AND GOT
DRUNK RIGHT AWAY.



PEOPLE
QUICKLY
KEPT THEIR
DISTANCE.

SOON
HE WAS
COVERED
WITH LICE,
THEN HE
CAUGHT
SCABIES.



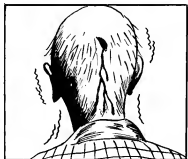
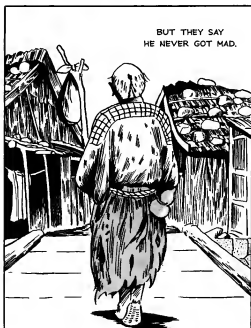
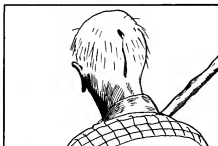
HEY! IT'S
SEIGETSU THE
BEGGAR!

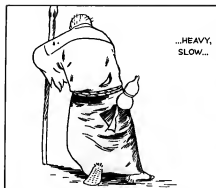
KIDS
PLAYED
PRANKS
ON HIM.



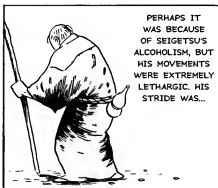
DOGS
CHASED
HIM.







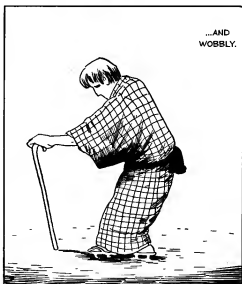
...HEAVY,
SLOW...



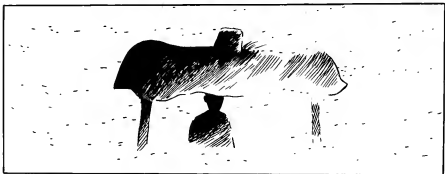
PERHAPS IT
WAS BECAUSE
OF SEIGETSU'S
ALCOHOLISM, BUT
HIS MOVEMENTS
WERE EXTREMELY
LETHARGIC. HIS
STRIDE WAS...



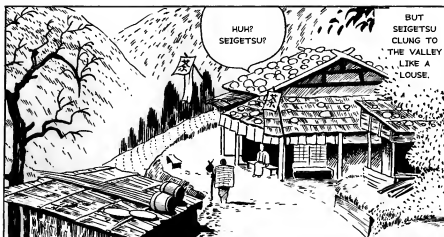
YAMAI...

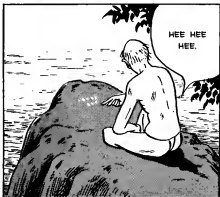
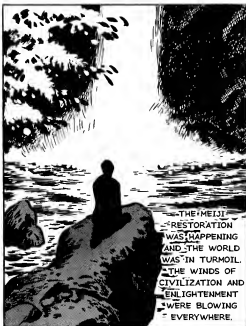


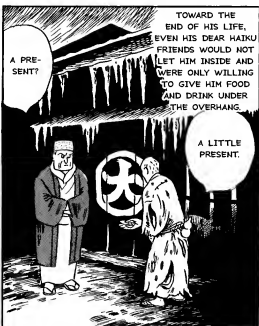
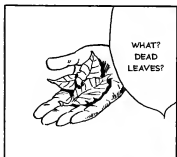
...AND
WOBBLY.











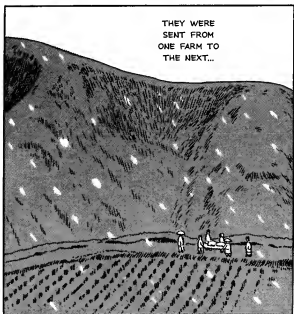




...SEIGETSU DIED IN
A DRIED OUT PADDY,
COVERED IN SHIT.

IN DECEMBER ON
THE 19TH YEAR OF
THE MEIJI ERA...







...IS WHERE
SEIGETSU DIED ON
MARCH 10TH OF THE
FOLLOWING YEAR
(HE WAS 66).



THERE, IN
THE BACK OF
THAT BARN,
IN WRETCHED
CONDITION
AND UNABLE
TO SPEAK...



SEIGETSU!
A FAREWELL
POEM!

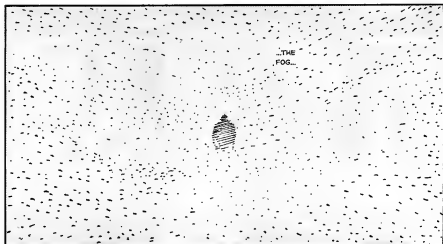
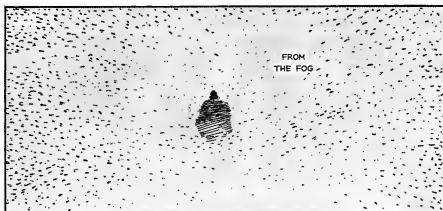
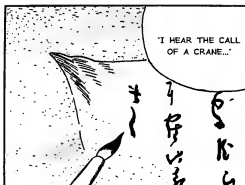
AS HE
WAS ABOUT
TO BREATHE HIS
LAST BREATH,
HIS OLD FRIEND
REQUESTED
A POEM.

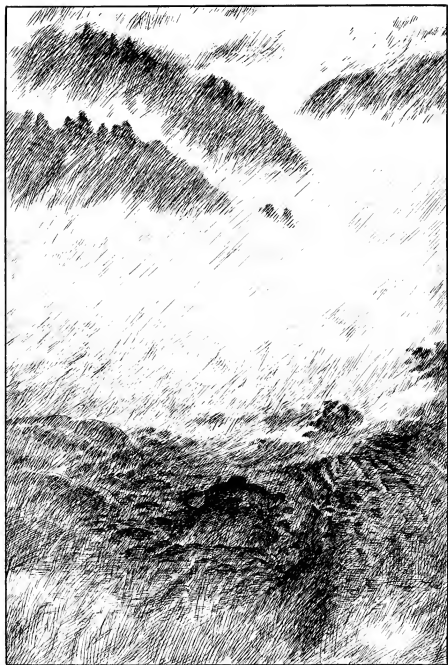


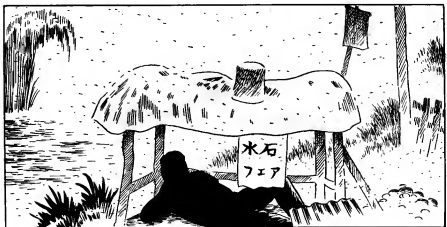
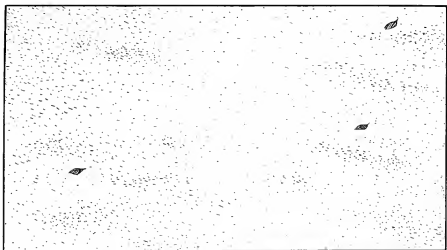
IS THIS?



COME ON!
A FAREWELL
POEM!







VIEWING STONE CAMPAIGN GOING ON NOW

*参考資料 下島 鮎篇「井月全集」、長谷川亮三「俳人井月」より